



Written Language:

Storing knowledge

Writing is a way to 'store knowledge'. The written down knowledge did not depend on people's memories. It also gave an accurate record how much land and other goods people owned. Some of the first people to write things down were accountants not story-tellers or scientists! Symbols for numbers were as important as words and letters.

But how do you code spoken words as marks on paper or stone or wood? There are two approaches:

- use pictures to represent things (one picture for each)
- use letters to code spoken words (a smaller number of letters - but you had to be able to spell!)



In this module

The story of written language is partly the story of human thinking. In this module you will look at some of these issues:

Ancient scripts:

How are thoughts recorded so that future generations can benefit from them? You will look at scripts from thousands or hundreds of years ago.

Making recycled paper:

Can you make some paper? And write on it?

The history of paper:

Who invented paper? And can you improve on their original formula?

Investigating paper properties:

Different papers are designed for different purposes. In this practical you will investigate the properties of papers for writing on, mopping up spills or wrapping things in a waterproof covering.

Paper recycling quiz:

Just how much do you know about paper recycling?

Paper recycling, what can you do?:

Can you cut your paper use and save the planet?

Ban it!:

Written documents can spread knowledge and insight or hatred and religious intolerance. Are some documents so dangerous they should be banned? In this group discussion you will look at censorship and decide when, or if, a document should be banned.